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SEPTEMBER 14, 2025 BY RONNIE

MacDonald Gets 10 Years For Production Of Atomwaffen Videos

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MACDONALD SENTENCED FOR TERRORISM OFFENCES

OTTAWA (ONTARIO) – September 8, 2025 – Today, in Ontario Superior Court, Patrick Gordon MacDonald was sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment for the following terrorism offences: enhancing the ability of any terrorist group to facilitate or carry out a terrorist activity; facilitating a terrorist activity; and committing an indictable offence for the benefit of, at the direction of or in association with one or more terrorist group.

More specifically, he participated in the creation and editing of three recruitment videos encouraging viewers to commit violent acts on behalf of the Atomwaffen Division (AWD), which is a listed terrorist group, and by posting them and other violent images online as propaganda for AWD. He also facilitated the creation of these recruitment videos by providing his equipment, namely his Fuji camera and lenses to take images for the videos. In addition, he was trained as a graphic designer and was capable of producing the videos.

In the same context, he participated in producing and publishing images which willfully promoted hatred against an identifiable group, namely Jewish people, for the benefit of and in association with AWD.

Director of Public Prosecutions, George Dolhai, said:

> "Those who provide their skills to a terrorist entity, to produce videos to be sown indiscriminately among young and vulnerable minds reaching out on the

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patrick gordon macd

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R. v. MacDonald, 2025 ONSC 1939 (CanLII)

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Date: 2025-04-02
File number: CR-23-13369-MO
Citation: R. v. MacDonald, 2025 ONSC 1939 (CanLII), <https://canlii.ca/t/kbf13>, retrieved on 2025-09-14

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CITATION: R. v. MacDonald, 2025 ONSC 1939
COURT FILE NO.: CR-23-13369-MO
DATE: 2025/04/02

ONTARIO
SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE

BETWEEN:

His Majesty the King — Crown — Catherine Legault and Marc Cigana, for the Crown

An Ontario man, Patrick Gordon MacDonald, received a 10 year jail sentence for a series of terrorism offences. Specifically, he was convicted for creating 3 videos encouraging people to join the group Atomwaffen. While he posted other content online, it's these videos which caused the most trouble.

One might think that there's little else to do in the way of solving crime in Canada. Police spent a lot of time and money going after him.

It's true that the creation of the videos predates Atomwaffen's designation by Ottawa as a terrorist organization. However, it didn't seem to matter much. The videos MacDonald made were called:

1. Grey Zone
2. Fission
3. Feuernacht

The ruling doesn't go into great detail about the contents of the videos, but these remarks are made.

> [35] The videos had two purposes: a) to recruit new members; and b) to propagate AWD terrorist ideology by encouraging viewers to start the revolution and purge the weak. The

> ***Fission video invites viewers to join AWD in their efforts to "vanquish the modern world"; the narrator continues stating "we call forward all who are willing to descend, like a howling wolf, on the frail fold and rend limb from limb those without the stomach to fight", "from the ashes of the kike system, our new order shall emerge" and concludes by saying "join us or perish with the rest"***, which is a statement that expressly incites fear in members of the public.

> [36] In the ***Feuernacht video, the narrator exhorts viewers to "burn it all, purge the weak, join the division***". The ***Grey Zone video concludes by telling viewers to "get the program", "create your own cell", and "start the revolution***". It describes the terror that will be unleashed on "***fat, treacherous bureaucrats" and "Jewish snakes", "we will storm your mansions, creating caskets from your dining tables and tombstones of your bedposts***". All three videos end with the same email address: awdrecruiting@tutonota.com.

Apparently, there was nothing in any of them to indicate it was trolling or satire.

"Grey Zone" was filmed at an abandoned cement plant in Belleville, Ontario. The police spent some time comparing the graffiti and marks on the cement wall. They also pulled MacDonald's phone records (including location data), to confirm he was in Belleville. (Paragraph 38)

"Fission" was filmed at a former school in St. Ferdinand, Québec in July 2019. The police pulled MacDonald's bank records to show that he had made purchases in the area. Oddly, phone records show that his cell *wasn't* in the area, and the Judge simply concluded it might have been loaned out at that time. (Paragraph 38 f/g)

The Judge doesn't say where Feuernacht was created, but ruled that it was shot by the same camera which created the other 2 videos.

On some level, it's quite something the effort that was spent to find out where, when and by whom these videos were made. That said, it's telling that there are many other serious crimes that go on in Ontario that receive little to no investigation.

Side note: another honeypot has decided to call out Atomwaffen. It's amusing when they turn against each other.

MacDonald's Counsel Does Lackluster Job

To be blunt, it's not really clear what the strategy was supposed to be. There were several things that implicated MacDonald, and there seemed to be no effort to attempt any mitigation.

> [17] The Defence ***did not attack any of Dr. Perry's evidence about the history of AWD, the formation of AWD, or dispute her opinion evidence that AWD's core ideological views were based on neo-Nazi accelerationism or that it encouraged its members to engage in acts of violence*** against the state, Jewish people, minorities, and others with the intent to create a race war to establish a white ethno-state.

> [20] I accept Dr. Perry's expert evidence about the history and the ideological beliefs of the AWD group, including her opinion ***that AWD was a terrorist group within the definition of section 83.01(1) of the Criminal Code in the 2018-2019 time period, because AWD encouraged its members to commit violent acts against the state, Jewish people, minorities, and others to create a race war to establish a white ethno-state***. I also accept Dr. Perry's opinion evidence that one of AWD's purposes was the facilitation of carrying out a terrorist activity and as such, it was a terrorist entity in 2018-2019. Her opinion was not contested on this point.

> [27] The Accused ***posted the recruitment videos and violent Nazi images online under the online pseudonym "Dark Foreigner" for AWD on several media platforms using the hashtag "atomwaffen division". The login information and password for these accounts were found above the ceiling tiles in the Accused's residence during the search of his premises***. The fact that the Accused hid the login information and passwords for these accounts above the ceiling tiles ***indicates his knowledge that AWD was a terrorist group***. The post by "Dark Foreigner" on Tumblr on April 16, 2018, ***included an image showing the trefoil symbol, a person wearing a balaclava skull mask, a military camouflage jacket, an assault jacket, and carrying a weapon with the words "Nazi" and "Atomwaffen"*** inscribed at the bottom.

> [29] Finally, the ***pamphlet of "the AWD program" written in Russian was also found hidden above the ceiling tiles in the Accused's room*** in the basement. While the

recruitment pamphlets of AWD were written in Russian, the fact that the Accused ***hid the pamphlets above the ceiling tiles indicates that he knew about the ideology of AWD and tried to conceal the pamphlet to avoid detection*** of the fact that he was a participant in the activities of AWD and that it was a terrorist group.

[30] The ***metadata contained in the Grey Zone video, namely in the JPEG files, confirms that these images were filmed using the Accused's Fuji camera and lenses that had the identical serial number as the Fuji camera and lenses that were found in the Accused's residence during the search of his premises***. This is strong evidence that the Accused was involved in taking images with his Fuji camera and lenses that were included and found in the Grey Zone video. It is also strong evidence that the Accused was aware of AWD's ideology and that it was a terrorist group.

[34] The Defence ***did not argue that contributing to or participating in the production of the recruitment videos would not amount to participating or contributing to a terrorist activity***. The issue is whether the Crown has proven beyond a reasonable doubt that the Accused is the person that participated in the production of the recruitment videos and posted the violent Nazi images online.

While the decision convicting MacDonald is long, here are a few highlights. The Defence apparently never tried to argue that creating these videos didn't amount to terrorism. Instead, his lawyers tried arguing that it wasn't him.

However, a few things really hamstrung MacDonald: (a) metadata from his camera; (b) cellphone activity; (c) AWD pamphlet and login information for his social media accounts hidden in the ceiling; and (d) clothing that appeared to match those seen in the videos.

[3] The Defence raises two arguments against the conviction:

a. Firstly, the Crown's evidence does not identify the Accused as the person who participated in or contributed to the production of the three recruitment videos and posted AWD propaganda images online beyond a reasonable doubt; and

b. Secondly, the Defence submits that the expert evidence of Dr. Perry, to the effect that AWD was a terrorist group in the 2018-2019 period that promoted the use of violence in

Defence of the white race, was not sufficiently reliable to constitute proof beyond a reasonable doubt.

According to the Judge however, the Defence never really challenged the testimony from Barbara Perry about Atomwaffen's core ideological beliefs.

Timeline Of Major Events In Case

2019: MacDonald creates 3 promotional videos for Atomwaffen. It's noteworthy that all of this happened *prior* to the group being designated as a terrorist organization in 2021.

February 3rd, 2021: Atomwaffen is officially classified as a terrorist group.

November 18th to December 3rd, 2024: MacDonald formally goes on Trial.

April 2nd, 2025: Justice Smith convicts MacDonald on 3 counts of participation in activity of terrorist group. He remains out on bail.

August 7th, 2025: Justice Smith agreed to let Matthew Kriner give opinion evidence during the sentencing hearing of MacDonald.

September 8th, 2025: MacDonald is sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Is An Appeal Likely To Succeed?

10 years is a long time for a first arrest. MacDonald had no prior record, so that should count for a lot. He also remained on bail for 2 years without incident.

On the other hand, Judges are given a large amount of deference when handing down sentences, and Appellate Courts may be reluctant to interfere. This last ruling is not yet available on CanLII, but should be interesting to read.

But if he does appeal, perhaps he should get a better lawyer.

(1) https://www.canlii.org/en/on/onsc/doc/2025/2025onsc1939/2025onsc1939.html
(2) https://www.canlii.org/en/on/onsc/doc/2025/2025onsc4582/2025onsc4582.html
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